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LEADERSHIP IS SHIFTING

Premier's Early Supporters Said to Be Gaining Power From Communist Aides

Split Opened in May

The reports from Havana say that the latest rift between Dr. Castro and the Communists arose after the Premier's return from his visit to the Soviet Union in May.

At a Cabinet meeting in the Presidential Palace Aug. 21, the informants said, the Premier's chief associates decided that the old-line Communists could no longer be trusted with positions of power.

The crux of the dispute is said to be that each faction holds the other responsible for the deepening chaos in the Cuban economy and the island's society as a whole.

The criticism of the Communists includes, indirectly, criticism of the Soviet Union, which is supervising the emergence of the new economic system.

The Communists are understood to feel that the improvisations and high-handedness of Dr. Castro's supporters are neutralizing the Soviet effort.

Soviet Advice Reported

One of the most important points of bitterness against the Communists and against Moscow is said to be a Soviet decision that Cuba should concentrate on agriculture and forget industrial development for a generation.

This is believed to be the meaning of Premier Khrushchev's advice to Dr. Castro, as reported by the Cuban leader, in a speech upon his return from Moscow, that in the Marxist-Leninist world each state should do economically what is most natural for it. In Cuba's case, this would be the production of sugar.

The Havana informants say that since last May many of the key Communists, notably Blas Roca, secretary general of the former Popular Socialist party, and Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, president of the National Institute of Agrarian Reform, have lost much of their power.

Instead Dr. Castro is said to be courting again his old revolutionary associates, who had long been relegated to oblivion.

Two in Particular Favor

Two who have especially regained favor are Pedro Miré, former Minister of Agriculture and now commander of artillery, and Firmino Perez, once Minister of Recuperation of Stolen Wealth. Both were among Dr. Castro's closest non-Communist friends in the early days of the revolution.

However, the Havana informants say, many of the old Castro military and civilian associates have begun to feel that they are being used by the Premier for his own aims, instead of those of Cuba's real interests.

Many are said to be deeply disenchanted with Communist rule in Cuba. But, informants say, the United States has provided them with no alternative to continuing to support the regime.

These informants also report that disenchantment with the regime is spreading to military and militia units, except for the highly indoctrinated elite detachments.

Escapes Are Permitted

A growing number of instances have been reported in which militiamen have looked the other way when the regime's foes have attempted to escape from the Cuban coast in small boats and when the members of the Committee for Vigilance, particularly in the countryside, have been deliberately remiss in reporting small instances of anti-regime offenses.

There is nothing here to indicate, however, that anything more serious than additional nuisance operations against the Castro regime is in prospect.

Although the United States does not discourage these hit-and-run operations, no exile organization exists in Florida on

pose a serious threat for the Cuban Government.

The judgment of the authoritative quarters in Cuba is understood to be that Washington's tolerance of small refugee groups that are identified with political factions objectionable to most Cubans works against the emergence of meaningful opposition. This is said to be specifically true of the groups that apparently operate from Nicaragua and are identified with Manuel Artime, an exile leader who was released from a Cuban prison last December. He participated in the 1961 invasion of Cuba.

Many people who may be in a position to act against the Castro regime, these reports indicate, will not do so if the only alternative to the Communist rule offered by the United States is the acceptance of these refugee groups.

This judgment is considered important because a situation may be developing in Cuba; it is said, in which certain steps against the regime could be